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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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No. 2

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

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NEWS AND VIEWS

PARIS CHAPTER REORGANIZES

We are happy to report that the Reverend J. W. Clotfelter has been instrumental in reactivating the Bourbon County Bird Club at Paris, and there are now thirteen active members. Many of you will remember Mr. Clotfelter, for he has been a member of the K. O. S. for many years. At present he is serving on the membership committee. We extend our best wishes to the Paris members and hope they will become active participants in the various activities of the K. O. S. Congratulations!

* * * * *

WILSON CLUB NEWS

At the recent meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., was reelected president and Leonard C. Brecher, the retiring treasurer, was elected to the Council. Among the K. O. S. members attending the meeting were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Louisville; Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, Tenn.; Burt L. Monroe, Jr., San Diego, Cal.; Daniel Webster, Madison, Ind.; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mengel, Lawrence, Kan.

* * * * *

TOMMY SMITH'S PAINTINGS BEING SHOWN

An exhibition of bird paintings by Thomas Price Smith, Pewee Valley, one of our members, is currently being shown at the Hadley Gallery, 1570 Story Avenue, Louisville. There are fifteen paintings in the display.

* * * * *

WOODBURN LAKES GOOD IN 1955

The wet-weather lakes so long studied by our editor have been quite good this spring. Twenty species of ducks appeared in late February and in March, to equal any previous year of study there. As this issue goes to press, both lakes are falling fast and will probably be gone shortly after May 20. A fuller account of the season will appear in our August issue.

* * * * *

K. O. S. IN A FLOWER SHOW

Any organization can profit by good publicity. Our president, Mrs. Frederick Stamm, had a marvelous opportunity recently to put the Kentucky Ornithological Society right in the public eye, and she certainly made the most of it.

On March 28 and 29 the Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc., was hostess to the South Atlantic Regional Meeting of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., which was held in Louisville. Part of the entertainment planned was a Flower Show on a much larger scale than ever before undertaken in Kentucky. K. O. S. was invited to have a display. Ann Stamm was right in the midst of

(News and Views Continued on Page 34)

NESTING OF CERULEAN WARBLER IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

By Kay Altsheler

In the spring of 1954 my husband, Yancey, and I spent ten weeks in Sleepy Hollow, Oldham County, Kentucky. As this is one of the best birding areas in the Louisville region, we had an opportunity to observe closely many different species. Among these was the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*).

Mrs. F. W. Stamm of Louisville has described fully the habitat in her article "A Study of Nesting Birds at Sleepy Hollow, Kentucky" (*KENTUCKY WARBLER XXIX* (1953, 21-28). Briefly, it is a deciduous woodland tract through which runs the South Fork of Harrod's Creek. The water has been impounded and forms Sleepy Hollow Lake. The cottage area winds along a dirt road several hundred feet above the edge of the water. Typical Kentucky woodland trees, shrubs, and wild flowers are abundant in this protected area. During the ten weeks from April 1 to June 15 we identified 130 species of birds, including both breeding and migratory species.

The Cerulean Warbler is common throughout Sleepy Hollow from the end of April to the early part of August. I first heard it on April 18, and by April 25 the males were singing in many spots. I determined to find and record the nesting of this beautiful little bright blue bird. My notes relative to that project follow.

May 7. The woods are full of male Ceruleans singing their incessant and sometimes monotonous song, but they are so high that I rarely see one.

May 10. For the first time, I today observed a male singing from a low perch. I have not yet seen a female, high or low, but assume they are here.

May 16. The males appear to have established their territories, as they seem to be evenly distributed throughout the Hollow. I have not yet been able to see any nesting activity.

May 21. I watched a male and a female in three white walnut trees near our cottage. I believe they may be getting ready to select a nesting spot.

May 24. The male sang all day from one or another of the three white walnut trees. The female was also observed in the same trees most of the day, but I could detect no sign of nesting activity. I have noticed that the Cerulean Warblers more often act like creepers or Black and White Warblers than they do like other members of their family. They keep closer to the limbs and are rarely seen at the ends of twigs or among the leaves. They sometimes fly out from a perch and back as do the flycatchers.

May 25. After sitting for most of five hours and watching the pair of Ceruleans in the walnut trees mentioned above, at four o'clock this afternoon I finally located the spot where the pair had decided to nest. They have selected a fork on a small branch of a horizontal limb about 20 feet from the trunk and 35 feet above the ground. The main part of the limb at the chosen spot is not more than an inch in diameter. The fork is encircled by small twigs and leaves. It is directly above our yard, and there are no interfering branches between it and the ground. It is, however, so well concealed from below by the twigs and leaves surrounding the fork that there are only three places in the yard from which I can view the beginning stages of their nest.

From above and the sides it is protected by other limbs of the nesting tree and of another nearby white walnut with interlacing branches.

Only the female is participating in the building, but the male is always alert for any possible danger and accompanies her to and from the nesting tree when she goes for additional material. This material is so small that I cannot identify it, even with binoculars. The male sings constantly, and when the female returns to the tree, he continues to distract attention from her by singing even more incessantly, from his perch on the opposite side of the tree. While he is doing his best to keep all eyes off her, she will usually creep from limb to limb until she reaches the nesting spot and then go quickly but quietly to work. I have, however, occasionally seen her fly directly to the nesting area.

During the day I observed that the male was very active in warding off intruders. There is a Summer Tanager nest, built last week, in the same tree about 30 feet away, but each male appears to respect the other's territory. I saw the male Cerulean drive off a Red-eyed Vireo which has a beautiful nest in a white walnut tree across the road, and in return when our male Cerulean lit on that tree, it was turn-about, and the Vireo forced him to leave.

May 26. At 6:45 this morning the female was working in her nest, but the male was not in evidence. The female stopped work when a Cowbird appeared in the tree. Later, when a Blue Jay, which has a nest with young a few hundred yards away, alighted in the walnut tree, the female was hunting insects on a remote limb of the nesting tree.

May 27. The female is working constantly. The nest is growing rapidly in width and height. It is brownish on the outside. It is still difficult to identify any of the material she is carrying, but some of it looks like grass. She works with her bill and with both feet in weaving. Sometimes she appears to be using a sewing technique, pushing the material from the inside with her feet, catching it on the outside with her bill, and putting it back through the wall to the inside. She shapes the interior by using her body to press against the inside wall. While sitting in the nest, she uses her bill to fluff out the interior of the wall. At five o'clock I could still see light through certain parts; I assume, then, that she has not yet lined the nest.

The male is not singing as formerly, but he still escorts his mate on every trip to and from the nesting tree. He never, though, goes near the nest. When he brings her back to the tree, he always bursts into song in an area on the other side of the tree, but he does not keep it up as long as formerly. He continues to be very belligerent if other birds approach the nesting area. Today he chased away a Crested Flycatcher and a Phoebe. The Phoebe and its mate have already fledged one brood and are starting a second nest under the eaves of the house next door.

May 28. I believe the nest has been finished. Although I cannot measure it, I estimate its outside measurements to be about two and a half inches in width and one and a half inches in height. The nest now appears to be grayish in color and to have some lichens on the outside. It has apparently been lined, as there are no holes through which light can be seen. The male and female have been very quiet most of the day, although the male did sing lustily during a heavy rain.

May 29. Observed the female on the nest several times today. The male was unusually quiet.

May 30. I believe the female may be laying eggs. The male sings occasionally and is always on guard to chase away intruders.

June 2. The female is incubating and now stays almost constantly on the nest. I did not see the male feeding, nor did I see her leave the nest, but I assume that at some times she does.

I observed another pair of Ceruleans courting. They were beautiful as they went into an aerial display. They flew in unison high into the sky, circling as they rose. At one time they seemed to put their bills together, tip to tip, and with spread tails and wings they formed a delicate rosette as they whirled around for a few seconds. When this final display was over, they descended rapidly and lit on different branches of a white walnut tree in the yard next door. The female preened her feathers, and the male sang loudly.

June 3. Our female is incubating, and both are very quiet.

June 5. The female is still incubating. The male sings early in the morning and at sundown but is quiet during the day except when chasing away possible enemies. He does not feed his mate, and I have never seen him near the nest. The female rarely leaves it.

June 9. The female appears to be still incubating, as there is no sign of feeding young. Both are quiet most of the time. Other males in Sleepy Hollow continue to court and are singing throughout the day.

June 14. It was a very hot and humid day. I saw the female straddling the nest, a leg on each rim. Beneath her body I saw two tiny heads appear. I am not sure just when the eggs were hatched or whether there were more than two nestlings. I have, however, seen no feeding of young.

Today is our last in Sleepy Hollow until October. I shall not be able to observe whether or not our Ceruleans will be successful in raising their young, but it has been a memorable experience to be able to observe so closely the courting and nesting of this pair of faithful and beautiful little azure-blue warblers.

* * * * *

October 18. We are again at Sleepy Hollow for a few weeks in the same cottage. The Cerulean nest is still snugly attached to its fork in the white walnut tree. Although it has now turned brown and there are holes through which light can be seen, it is interesting to know that our female built her nest strong enough to withstand so well the wind and rain of summer and early fall.

* * * * *

FIELD NOTES

DATA ON INCUBATION PERIOD OF SONG SPARROW

Date nest discovered: July 8, 1953.

Location of nest: 40 inches from ground in a small spruce tree near Louisville.

Date nest completed: July 10, lined with soft, fine hay.

Dates eggs were laid: 1 each on July 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Dates eggs were hatched: 3 on July 28, 1 on July 29.

Incubation period: 12 days.

Behavior of parents when nest was approached: fluttered on ground as if crippled.

Date young birds left nest: August 7, which indicates a feeding period of 9 days.

—L. H. PIEPER, Louisville.

* * * * *

WOODCOCK FLIGHT SONGS IN HARLAN COUNTY

At dusk on the evening of March 10, 1955, at the summit of Big Black Mountain, near Lynch, Harlan County, Kentucky, in the area designated as Grassy Gap on the USGS Estillville Quadrangle, we heard the "peenting" and flight song of the Woodcock, *Philohela minor*. The weather was quite windy, and the clouds were so low and dense that visibility was almost nil. Earlier in the afternoon, when the clouds were apparently less dense, a moving man could not be seen, even against the sky line, at a distance of 75 yards. As nearly as we could determine audibly, several birds were involved.

The next afternoon we took up positions near the center of the singing area in an effort to further observe the antics. On this date, March 11, the wind was rather brisk, but the clouds were sufficiently high as not to interfere with lateral visibility. The air temperature was 57° F. At 5:50 P. M. C. S. T. we noted the first "peent." At 5:54 a Woodcock flew from a thicket, made two short spirals, and lit within 50 feet of us. After "peenting" several times on the ground, it made another spiraling flight, lasting approximately three-quarters of a minute. All together, we observed five flights, ranging from one-half to one minute, with an average duration of three-quarters of a minute. While in the air, the bird uttered the characteristic warbling songs.

Whether the Woodcock nests on the summit of Big Black Mountain is still a matter of conjecture, but these observations, coupled with the fact that Barbour (*Ky. Warbler*, XVII; 46-47) took a specimen from the area in summer, certainly lends credence to the theory that they do nest there.—ROGER W. BARBOUR and CHARLES E. SMITH, JR., Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

* * * * *

MID-WINTER ROBIN INVASION

On the Christmas Bird Census this past year we saw and recorded an unusually large number of Robins. In the immediate area of our

home we recorded by count 278 Robins, although we are sure this conservative figure did not fully represent the entire population. Our home is located in eastern Jefferson County, approximately six miles east of Louisville. It is in the midst of what was once a nursery, and there are mature trees, many of which are cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*—var. *canaerti*) and holly (*Ilex opaca*).

Within the week following the Christmas Bird Census increasingly large flocks of Robins continued to appear. By the end of January the number could only be estimated. After a walk over the approximately ten acres in the area, we attempted to estimate the number and arrived at 2000. In order to get an idea of the number of Robins in this ten-acre tract, it is interesting to note that during the holiday season the cedars were literally covered with berries. There are about 75 of these trees, about 25 to 30 feet tall. By the end of January the trees had been stripped of their berries.

Mr. R. L. Haag, of the Haag Nurseries, called on us the first of February to inquire whether we had observed the tremendous flocks of Robins throughout the nursery. He said that never before in all the years of his work in this area had he seen Robins in such numbers. He further stated that these flocks had stripped all his holly berries, too. He remarked that it seemed incredible to see a flock of Robins fly into one of these trees and depart, leaving the tree picked clean.

With the disappearance of the cedar and holly berries, the Robins also began to disappear, so that by the tenth of February only a small number were seen.—FRANK and MARY KRULL, Louisville.

* * * * *

PILEATED WOODPECKER NESTING IN INDIAN HILLS AREA

I had suspected for years that the Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophloeus pileatus*, nested in the Indian Hills area, but it was not until May 30, 1954, that I was certain of it. During the previous week, I had been attracted by high-pitched Flicker-like calls, particularly in the morning hours, and by following the notes, I finally discovered the nest. It was 70 feet up in the rotted top of an old sycamore tree, which is located within a few feet of the Indian Hills Trail. At the time of discovery, two young birds were poking their heads out of the nest cavity; they were calling noisily. The nest tree contained numerous other holes of the size used by the Pileated and the Flicker, which undoubtedly had been nesting sites in previous years. The young left the nest on May 31, 1954, the day after it was found.

On April 15, 1955, Emily Halverson and I found a pair active at a new cavity of the same tree, at a slightly lower elevation, approximately three-fourths of the way around from the old nest. On several occasions we have seen a Pileated looking out from within the cavity. The birds frequent two other large trees in the same area; these trees have oval cavities and may be roosting or nesting sites of previous years.

We have lived in this heavily-wooded section since 1917 and have observed these birds the year around since 1941. It seems strange to find this species nesting in a tree which is on a heavily traveled highway rather than farther back from the road in a more isolated part of the woods.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

* * * * *

INCUBATION OF THE CARDINAL

On July 16, 1954, about 4:00 P. M., I found a nest of the Cardinal in a mock orange shrub in our yard. The nest was approximately 84

inches above the ground. It contained one egg, and at the time of the discovery the bird was not on the nest. I checked the nest the following day at 5:00 P. M. It contained two eggs, and the female was incubating.

Two eggs were in the nest at 9:30 A. M. on July 28. At 5:00 P. M. the nest was checked again. There was one newly hatched bird and one egg. The nest was examined again at 7:40 P. M. the same day; the second egg had hatched. Since the bird was incubating the day of the laying of the second egg (July 17), then eleven days were required for incubation. Or, if we assume that the second egg was laid in the early morning hours and the bird started incubation immediately, then eleven and a half days were required for the period of incubation. The young birds remained in the nest for ten days and left.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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GOLDEN PLOVERS AT COX'S PARK

Shortly after 7:30 A. M. on March 27, 1955, Marie and Louis Pieper, Eric Mills, and the writers were happily surprised to see a flock of Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) fly directly in front of our parked cars in Cox's Park. (This is a newly created park of 58 acres, opened in 1953, located between the Ohio River and the River Road, approximately 3½ miles northeast of Louisville.) The high water of the previous weeks had flooded the low grassy areas, and here at the water's edge, not more than eight feet away, stood eleven of these birds. We looked at them carefully; they were in winter plumage.

Other birds of note that cold morning were 22 Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*), which flew to the upper end, where it was dry, alighted on the frozen ground and crouched down, more or less huddled it as if to avoid the sharp wind that caused us to do most of our observing from the cars. Eight Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and one Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*) fed and preened at the edge of the flooded area, while in the deeper water six Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and a pair of American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) swam about. A Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), one of a flock of twelve that frequented the upper edge of the flooded area, seemed to plunder the fish that the mergansers were catching.

The same afternoon Harvey B. Lovell found 42 Golden Plovers in Cox's Park. He noticed that a few in the flock had some black streakings, indicating partial spring plumage. The following day, March 28, 1955, Mrs. H. V. Noland and Mrs. A. W. Halverson observed 80 of these birds in the same general area.

We visited the park on the following Sunday, April 3, 1955, but did not see any of the birds that were seen the preceding week. This may have happened because the water had receded.

This seems to be an early date for the plovers in this area. There are surprisingly few spring records of large flocks of this species in Kentucky, in spite of the fact that the main flyway of the Golden Plover passes through the Mississippi Valley.—ANNE L. STAMM and FRANK X. KRULL, Louisville.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS AT LOUISVILLE

The White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*), which were discovered in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, on December 23, 1954 (Ky. Warbler, XXXI: 17-18), remained through the middle of February. In fact, the last date the birds were recorded was February 17, 1955, when Stamm saw a single male sitting close to the trunk of a hemlock tree. A careful search of the area, however, did not reveal any other crossbills. Other dates on which the birds were recorded are as follows: January 22, 8, later 16-18 (Slack and Carpenter); 5 by Stamm; January 23, 16-18; January 29, 7 (Slack); February 3, 9 (Stamm and Lovell).

The crossbills were always seen feeding in sweet gum and hemlock trees except for one time each when they were found in a spruce and a larch. There was a tendency for most of the members of a flock to feed close together and on the outermost branches, moving about rapidly, and sidling down a branch to make a thorough job of the cones near the end—or flutter to another branch close by. This mannerism made it difficult to count numbers. The closest approach was made during one of these feedings. As twenty of these birds fed busily in a hemlock, Slack noticed the cones were falling under the tree like rain. The birds showed no fear as the tree was approached. Finally at arm's length one male was watched. He stopped a moment, looked right at the intruder, and then continued feeding. For the most part the birds fed quietly, yet on one occasion the crackling of cones could be heard, and on three visits the crossbills made loud chattering notes as they moved about while feeding.

The flight was slightly undulating, moderately rapid, and at about the level of the treetops. It was mainly direct, but on occasions erratic, as, seemingly in line for a particular perch, they suddenly changed their minds and, one by one as if following a leader, dropped down to a lower, near perch.

A dry "check, check, check, check" was uttered all the time the birds were in flight, and many times it was heard before the birds were seen. At other times another soft "cheep, cheep, cheep" or "peat-peat-peweeet" was noted as the birds moved about in the trees but were not feeding.

Occasionally the crossbills were seen feeding with Pine Siskins and Goldfinches. And it may be worthy of note that the Pine Siskin, also a rather erratic bird, remained throughout March.

Most of our countings of a flock were made as the birds flew. The greatest number of males counted at any one feeding was ten in a flock of eighteen.

It was interesting to experience observing the habits and feeding patterns of the White-winged Crossbills during the 56-day period they remained in the Louisville area.—MABEL SLACK and ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

* * * * *

A WINTERING BROWN THRASHER

In early November, 1954, I noticed a Brown Thrasher in my yard, which is in Louisville, near Cherokee Park. At first I thought it was just late in migration, but I saw it frequently until February 20, 1955.

Sometimes I saw it two or three times a week and at not more than ten-day intervals. Other members of the household saw it when I did not. It was here when the temperature went down almost to zero, on February 12 and 13.

On January 15 I saw the Brown Thrasher and less than a mile away in Cave Hill Cemetery saw a flock of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins, and the very next day I saw a Phoebe's nest on Pendleton Hill, in northwestern Bullitt County. Quite a contrast!

The Brown Thrasher was quite tame and fed on bread scraps and seeds which we scattered on the ground. There were often many English Sparrows and Starlings feeding, and while the thrasher would eat with them, it preferred to be away from them. I usually scattered some food in some ivy on the ground and in leaves over the flower beds. These places were the thrasher's favorite feeding places. It seemed to enjoy scratching in the vines or leaves looking for food. It drank from and occasionally bathed in the bird bath. From all appearances it was in good health and could fly well.

After February 20 it was not seen until the middle of March, and since that is the time of arrival for early migrants, I do not know for certain whether it was the same bird. Since then one or more have been seen almost daily.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville.

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AT LONG LAST—BLUEBIRDS!

Friday morning, April 15, Bluebirds came to the nest box on Jarvis Lane, for the first time in history! Azalea made the early-morning discovery, and since that fateful moment, she has been like an excited mother hen with a family of baby chicks. Bluebirds came with dogwood blossoms, and, almost as if on the wings of the Bluebirds, came John and Marion Terres, on their way north from a Florida vacation. It was an omen, and now we, also, can have Bluebirds in our garden.

Last winter, after suffering many seasons of disappointment and numerous House Wrens and English Sparrows, we finally decided to change the location of the nest box. We moved it from the back garden, where it had been surrounded by overgrown shrubbery, to a more open situation at the side of the house, on a slight eminence, overlooking a wide expanse of a neighbor's lawn. The box is now securely fastened to the top of a 5-foot post, facing out across the lawn. Male and female Bluebirds are busily bringing in pieces of yellow grass, for nesting material. One or the other rests occasionally on the leafless limb of a neighboring Mimosa.

"A Bluebird comes tenderly up to alight

And turns to the wind to unruffle a plume;

His song so pitched as not to excite

A single flower as yet to bloom."—Robert Frost.

—W. G. DUNCAN, Louisville

NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE CAROLINA WREN

In February, 1954, a pair of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) chose as their nesting site a grape basket containing garden tools hanging on an inside wall of a narrow kitchen porch. Though there was considerable passage within two feet of the basket and frequent encounters with persons as the birds flew in and out of the porch, they were not deterred from completing a successful hatching. On February 25 the pair began collecting material, but no more was added until March 6, when a few leaves and grasses and roots were brought in. On March 8 material was taken into an old nesting box used in past years by wrens, located outside the porch, but none was added to the nest in the basket. However, the following day, March 9, both birds started at 7 A. M. to bring in material and worked feverishly to finish the nest. On the 10th and 11th a few bits were added in the early morning, and the nest was seemingly completed. For six days there was no inspection of or apparent interest in the nest. On March 17 the female began to use the basket as a roost, the male roosting in the box referred to above. In observing the roosting female with the aid of a flashlight, I was unable to see a definite outline of the bird, only a spread of grey rather than brown feathers with white markings.

The first egg was laid on March 22, and one each on four successive days. The laying was before 7 A. M. On April 11, when two nestlings were observed, the male brought in food for the female. No inspection was made on April 10. A third egg was hatched on April 12, and the fourth and fifth eggs on April 13. The incubation period seems to have been eighteen days. Eleven days later, April 24, the five young left the nest.

Nice in her detailed study of the Carolina Wren (WILSON BULLETIN, LX, No. 3, 1948) found that the incubation period was fourteen days.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

(Editor's Note: Since there is a variation of four days in this incubation period, our members should follow up this study with other studies of variations in the incubation of our common species.)

* * * * *

PINE SISKINS AGAIN

In the winter of 1952-53 the Pine Siskin appeared at Bowling Green and remained until May 8, 1953. (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIX, 45). Unlike that winter, the next one, 1953-54, brought few siskins. Only a very few were seen until the last record of the season, May 14, 1954, when twenty appeared on the Western campus. In the season just past, 1954-55, there have been several records, but only a few appeared at any one time. Fortunately, we were able to get this species for both the Mammoth Cave National Park and the Bowling Green Christmas Bird Counts. One of the most memorable groups that I have seen were late-spring birds, at Mammoth Cave National Park on May 7, 1954, in company with a large flock of Goldfinches. There seemed to be only eight siskins, about the highest seen at any time during the season. I hope that the species has decided to make this area a regular wintering place.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Our annual spring meeting was held in Louisville in the Reynolds Room of the Seelbach Hotel on April 15, 1955. At a meeting of the officers before the program proper the place of the fall meeting for 1955 was changed from Berea to Frankfort, with headquarters at the Capitol Hotel. It was voted to reimburse the editor for expenses incurred in publishing THE KENTUCKY WARBLER. It was brought to the attention of the officers that the check lists used by many of our members are now practically exhausted; new ones were authorized. Miss Evelyn Schneider recommended that leaflets giving pertinent facts about the K. O. S. be printed, since many inquiries come to the officers that cannot be answered without considerable trouble.

At the luncheon the speaker was Mr. Russell E. Mumford, president of the Indiana Audubon Society, who spoke on "Some of the More Unusual Birds of a Neighboring State." He stated that since 1897, when 300 species were known to be in Indiana, 45 new ones had been added from the areas to the north, south, and west. In many instances Mr. Mumford's pictures showed the nests or young of many species.

At the afternoon meeting the change in the constitution proposed at Kentucky Lake in the fall of 1954 was carried. Instead of having the spring meeting regularly in Louisville, it was voted to leave the place of meetings wholly to the executive council. The matter of having leaflets concerning the society was also voted by the whole body.

Miss Amelia Klutey, assistant curator of the Audubon Memorial Museum at Henderson, gave an extensive account of "What the Museum Has to Offer." She told of the park itself, the beautiful museum building, and the large collection of Audubon paintings, prints, books, furniture, and also some of the artistry of the naturalist's sons, Victor and John W. Audubon. Recently the Baker-Hunt collection of mounted birds, mammals, and butterflies has been added.

Dr. William Clay, University of Louisville, discussed "The Ecological Role of Predation," in which he placed before us the significance of balance in nature, which man usually destroys when he ignorantly tries to correct or improve.

The concluding feature was a beautifully illustrated talk on "Portraits of Bird Nests," by Mr. J. S. Kennedy, of Louisville.

The next morning, led by Miss Mabel Slack and Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, 18 members made a field trip to Sleepy Hollow, where they identified 45 species of birds.

—VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT, APRIL 15, 1955

Balance on hand, October 9, 1954.....\$170.54

Receipts:

Membership Dues	\$425.00
Receipts at Fall Meeting, 1954	213.25
Sale of check lists, WARBLERS, Bibliographies.....	6.33
Miscellaneous	2.05
Dividend, Jefferson—Federal	12.25
Profit on Bird Books, Fall Meeting	5.95
Credit, Bank Service.....	.75
Profit on Sale of Merchandise at K. O. S. Booth South Atlantic Regional Meeting of Flower Show.....	21.58
Total Receipts	\$857.70

Disbursements:

Expenses, Fall Meeting	\$207.40
Postage and Envelopes	35.70
Printing of 500 Statement Blanks	9.00
To Selby Smith for Printing November and February WARBLERS	225.42
Bank Service Charge75
Dues to Kentucky Conservation Council	2.00
Refund to Paris Bird Club	5.00
Mimeographing	2.00
Total	\$370.43

Of this sum \$75.00 belongs to our Endowment Fund. In our Endowment Fund we now have seven \$100 shares of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer

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plans for our spring meeting—up to her ears, in fact. She hesitated just long enough to wonder how she could swing it then accepted. She really went to work. The result was an interesting booth of which the directors of the Flower Show were proud. Placed immediately at the entrance to the large room, it was a good introduction to what was to follow.

The Louisville Nursery Association decorated the place with large specimen plants of yews. To these Mrs. Stamm added cedars which she and Mr. Stamm had cut from the woods of a friend. With the use of a flat mirror and gravel she had a very naturalistic pool. Under the small trees grew, to all appearances, clumps of daffodils. From Mr. Lucien Beckner of the Louisville Museum she borrowed mounted birds, which she placed appropriately about. At the edge of the "water" stood a Ruddy Turnstone and a Lesser Yellow-legs. On a small log jutting out over the "water" stood a Green Heron in solemn dignity, a beautiful specimen. There were also a Killdeer and a Woodcock on the ground. In the trees, added reality and color, were a Mockingbird, a Baltimore Oriole, an Indigo Bunting, and a Cardinal. The whole made a lovely picture.

At one side there were tables on which bird books, stationery, bird houses, and check lists were offered for sale. On the walls above, attractive bird prints were displayed. There was also a chart with Migration Routes mapped out.

Many visitors stopped and chatted, asking questions about our society. In the Flower Show program there was a statement as to its purposes and aims. It was pleasant to have this occasion to see members from out in the state who were attending the meeting. Also there were guests from other states who evidenced quite a bit of interest in our society.

The members who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Stamm in setting up the booth were Mrs. Mame Boulware, Miss Marie Pieper, Mr. Louis Pieper, Mr. Henry Pieper, and Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler.

During the two days that the show was in progress members of K. O. S. were in constant attendance at the booth. These included: Mrs. Boulware, Mrs. Ewing Brown, Helen Browning, Amy Deane, Mrs. A. W. Halverson, Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mrs. Kenneth Patterson, Marie Pieper, Mrs. J. R. Poteat, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Audrey Wright, and Dr. H. B. Lovell.

—MRS. FAN B. TABLER, Louisville

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TWO LETTERS FROM DR. FRAZER

Marion, Kentucky, February 23, 1955

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I have just read the WARBLER and note with pleasure that White-winged Crossbills have again been found in Kentucky. About twenty years ago I saw two of these birds in Crittenden County and reported the find to the WARBLER, but my story was not published. I presume it was like my first report of the Brown Thrasher in the winter census—I was just thought to be dreaming. Since that time the Brown Thrasher has been reported from different parts of the state, and Bacon of Madisonville has trapped two this winter. I am of the opinion that there are several species in our state that have not been identified at off seasons.

I am doing very well for a man past eighty-five; I work every day and do not intend to retire as long as I am mentally and physically able to work.

Yours truly,

T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

Marion, Kentucky, April 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I have been in the hospital for the past six weeks. I am not sick but cannot walk. I've made some observations from my hospital bed that I feel might interest you. I have seen fifteen species of birds from my window, and the most interesting thing is a pair of Doves nesting about fifteen feet from my window. Each one does its part of the incubation. I can see them as they change three times a day.

I wish I was able to meet the folks in Louisville this month, but tell them they'll never see me any more unless they come to Marion.

Your friend,

T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

(These letters were presented before our meeting in Louisville. Miss Evelyn Schneider arranged a get-well letter to Dr. Frazer, which a large number of our members, long-time friends of his, signed and sent to him. It does all of us good to know that our "grand old man of the K. O. S." will not let a little thing like being in a hospital keep him from studying birds).

—EDITOR.

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A CORRECTION

The editor gladly makes this correction: In the Christmas Bird Count from Madisonville the 3 Bewick's Wrens should have been 3 Carolina Wrens. In the complicated tabulation such mistakes sometimes regrettably occur. Please feel free, all of you, to call attention to errors, for we want our publication to be as nearly perfect as is possible.

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COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY—SPRING OF 1955

Again we should help in the Cooperative Migration Study being conducted by AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, in conjunction with the national government. The whole list is too long for insertion here but is being sent with your copy of the WARBLER. This cooperation would help keep our state group on the map as avid and scientific observers.

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MR. DUNCAN CARRIES ON

Mr. W. G. Duncan, our "Bluebird Man," often gets mixed up with Duncan Hines, who knows something about houses of another kind. Mr. Duncan, not Mr. Hines, lives at 315 Jarvis Lane, Louisville, and will be glad to communicate with you relative to Bluebird houses. He makes no profit of any sort from his interesting hobby—except, of course, satisfaction in helping to relieve the housing shortage. He estimates that he has already placed 3000 boxes. One of his houses occupies a proud place in the editor's back yard, though I fear no Bluebird will penetrate so far inside the city limits. A rather noisy House Wren was inspecting it in late April. Maybe it will take up lodgings there, as it did in another less pretentious house in my yard last year.

CHARLES STRULL HONORED

The annual banquet of the Beckham Bird Club was held in the Jefferson Room at the University of Louisville on February 11, 1955. The third Beckham Bird Club award was presented to Dr. Charles Strull for distinguished service to Kentucky ornithology. Dr. Strull has directed the project of counting birds across the moon during the spring and fall migrations. He has furnished his telescope, compiled the records, and sent them to Louisiana State University, where the data are interpreted. He has made this a genuinely cooperative project and has brought together a large number of members to assist him in the long, arduous work of observing the bird flights from the time the moon rises in the evening until it sets early in the morning.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Frederick Hardy of the State Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He has directed the work of the Beaver Creek Wildlife Refuge in the Cumberland National Forest, not far from Cumberland Falls. He illustrated his talk with colored slides showing many nests of the Ruffed Grouse and the Wild Turkey. The chief study was made on the habits of the Ruffed Grouse. In addition, the refuge has been stocked with Wild Turkey and white-tailed deer which were trapped at Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and released at Beaver Creek. Both the deer and the turkey have done well in their new home and have increased in numbers. The latest count shows a population of 100 Wild Turkeys.

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BIG SPRING LISTS

A good many of our members make an effort to find a large number of species at a weekend in late April or early May. Please send me your list, annotated, showing rare or unusual experiences, such as species that you do not commonly see, unusual numbers, or habitats that yielded good results. There will be a summary of your report in our next issue. For example, my own big list, taken on the afternoon of April 30 and most of the day of May 1, yielded 113 species. Some of the outstanding features of the count were the nineteen species of warblers, though I was not in especially good warbler territory, and twenty-one species of water birds. Within the week before the Big Spring List I recorded sixteen other species, making a grand total of 129 for the period from April 23 to May 1. Make any other comment that might be of interest.—The Editor.